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A NEW SPECIES OF ARMYWORM

BELONGING TO THE GENUS *FARONTA* SMITH
FROM THE WESTERN UNITED STATES (NOCTUIDAE)

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FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS a dark brown species of *Faronta* Smith has been sent to the author for determination. This genus belongs in that section of the Noctuidae which contains economically important genera (e.g. *Pseudaletia* Franclemont, *Leucania* Ochseneheimer, etc.), and the species *Faronta terrapictalis* Buckett, new species, is a potential agricultural pest. Thus far, nothing is known of its life history, but judging by other species within the genus, the larvae are probably grass feeders. Of *F. diffusa* (Walker), Crumb (1956) states for larval hostplants "Feeds on various grasses and cereal crops showing a preference for the heads and a particular fondness for timothy."

F. terrapictalis occurs in the late spring, and has become more abundant in recent years. The largest series has been collected at Travis Air Force Base, Solano County, California, but apparently *terrappictalis* is widespread, records having been accumulated from Nevada and Oregon also.

***Faronta terrapictalis* Buckett, n. sp.**

Primaries with uneven ground color varying from tan to dark brown intermingled with grey areas; secondaries dark fuscus. Head with vertex and frons densely clothed with bicolored simple hairs, basally tan, terminally fuscus; palpi with tan and dark brown hairs ventrally, clothed in an admixture of tan and fuscus scales extrolaterally, dorsally clothed in light tan scales, terminal segment short; compound eyes round, densely hairy; antennae with scape and pedicel clothed in white broadened scales, flagellomere dorsally clothed in off-white and tan simple

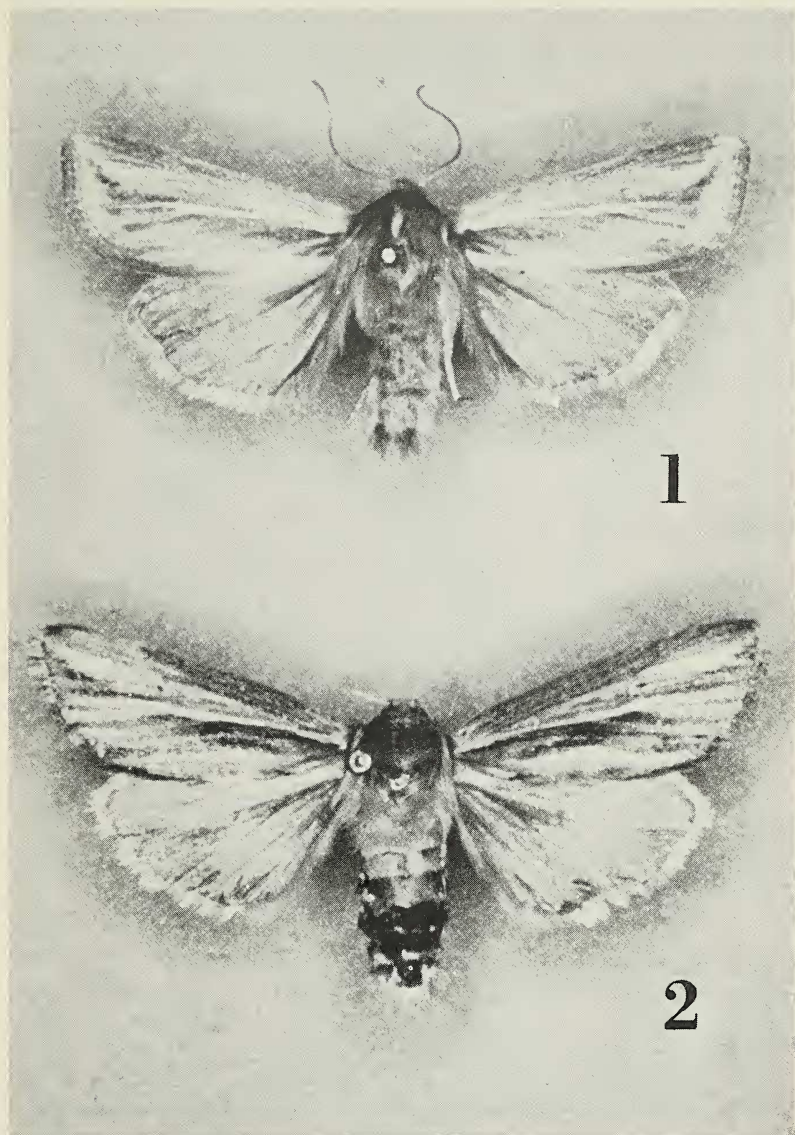
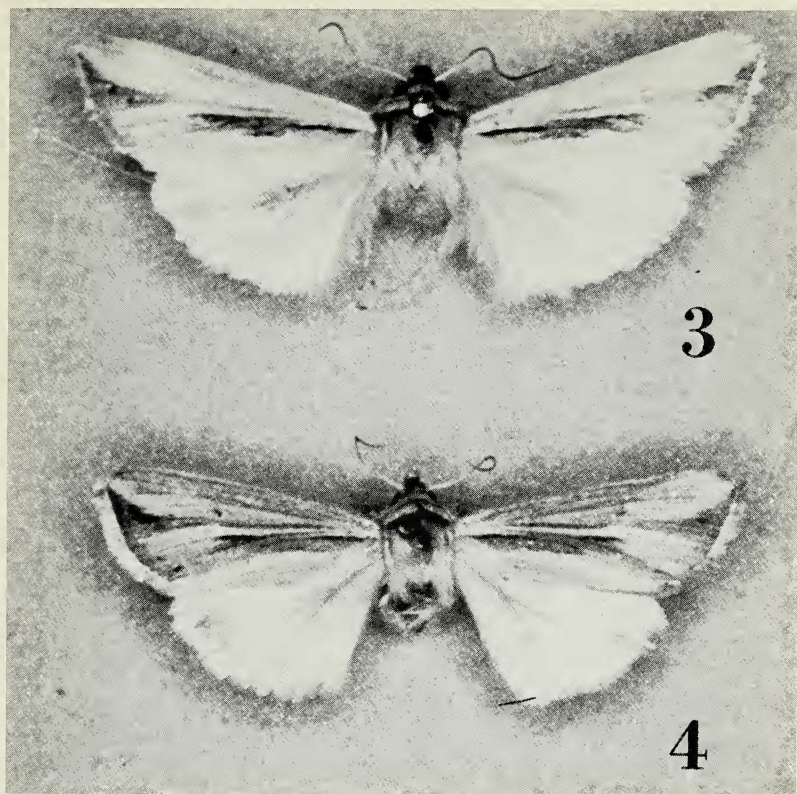


Fig. 1 *Faronta terrapictalis* Buckett, Holotype male. Alturas, Modoc County, California, 15 June 1965. Note fuscous secondaries.

Fig. 2 *F. terrapictalis*, Allotype female. Travis Air Force Base, Solano County, California, 16 April 1964 (J. Gayden), CDA Slide No. 68G9-1.

scales, ventrally fasciculate with alternating short and elongate simple hairs per fasciculate bunch, terminally clothed in medium long hairs. Thorax with collar tri-colored, basally offwhite, medially with a dark brown transverse line, terminal portion chocolate brown; tegulae chocolate brown with tan longitudinal streaks, composed of simple elongated hairs; disc chocolate brown medially with tan longitudinal elongate hairs; ventral surface clothed in elongate tan hairs; legs with femora dorsally clothed in dark brown simple scales, ventrally with elongate tan simple hairs; tibiae with elongate brown scales and tan simple hairs; tarsae sparsely clothed with simple scales; ungues very slightly bifurcate; empodia greatly pronounced; primaries lacking ordinary transverse cross lines; costal area whitish, irrorated with black scales; radial and medial areas with tan scalation from region of transverse anterior area to subterminal line; a prominent white longitudinal line present on cubitus vein, extending from base to area of mediocubital sector, whence line becomes bifurcate on cubitus, and medius 3, reaching to subterminal line; area between cubitus and second anal vein slightly outlined in dark brown; subterminal line defined as differentiation in color between basal seven-eighths of wing and grey terminal area; terminal line represented as dark brown line at base of fringes; fringes composed of apparently three separate echelons of scales, these scales being tri-colored, basally tan, medially brown, apically white-tipped; veins in all foregoing described areas lightly outlined in dark brown when apparent; ventral surface dark brown; veins in terminal portion slightly outlined in black; costal area and basal intermarginal area irrorated with tan scales; fringes as in dorsal surface; secondaries smoky fuscus, veins only slightly outlined in black; fringes tri-color, basally dark brown, sub-basally tan, remainder white; ventral surface as in dorsal surface, but with veins more prominently outlined in black. Abdomen dorsally with dark brown simple hairs and scales, terminally with a few tan scales intermingled; ventrally clothed in tan and brown simple hairs, terminally hairs and scales becoming predominately tan in coloration. Greatest expanse of forewing 15mm. Genitalia as in figures 5 and 6.

Female: As in male but darker in coloration; antennae with flagellomeres ventrally ciliate; remainder as in male. Greatest expanse of forewing 16mm. Genitalia as in figure 9.



- Fig. 3 *Faronta diffusa neptis* (Smith), male. 17 miles west of Roberts, Larimer County, Colorado, 30 July 1962 (J.S. Buckett and G.M. Trenam), Bauer-Buckett Slide No. 68C1-55. Note nearly white secondaries.
- Fig. 4 *F. diffusa neptis*, female. Same locality and collectors as preceding, Bauer-Buckett Slide No. 68C1-56. Note subterminal shade of secondaries.

SPECIMENS EXAMINED

Holotype male: CALIFORNIA: Alturas, Modoc County, 15 June 1965. Paratypes: 1 females, (designated allotype), Travis Air Force Base, Solano County, 16 April 1964, (J. Gayden); 2 males, same locality as holotype, 10 July 1960, 1 specimen bearing W.R.B.-J.S.B. slide No. 68C1-51; 1 male same locality as proceeding, 18 June 1963, silde No. 64E20-9; 2 males, Madeline, Lassen County, 14 June 1966, (R. P. Allen); 1 male Orinda, Contra Costa County, 28 April 1957, (S. F. Cook, Jr.); 1 male, Travis Air Force Base, Solano County, 13 May 1956; 2 males, same locality as preceding, 25 March 1968 (F. R. Larson); 16 males, same locality as preceding, 25 April 1968; 1 male, El



Fig. 5 *F. terrapictalis*, Paratype. Male genitalis minus aedeagus. Travis Air Force Base, Solano County, California, 25 April 1968 (J. Gayden), CDA Slide No. 68G3-21.

Fig. 6 *F. terrapictalis*, aedeagus. Same data as in Fig. 5.

Cerrito, Contra Costa County, 4 April 1961, (C. D. MacNeill), W.R.B.-J.S.B. slide No. 68B20-52; 1 male, Inverness, Marin County, 12 April 1940, (W. R. Bauer). NEVADA: 1 male, Winnemucca, Humboldt County, 29 May 1960, (T. R. Haig); 1 male same locality as preceding, 5 June 1961, (R. C. Bechtel). OREGON: 3 males, Baker, Baker County, 5 June 1964, (K. Goeden.)

Holotype male deposited in the Type Collection, Department of Entomology, University of California, Davis; allotype female deposited in the insect collection, Bureau of Entomology, California Department of Agriculture, Sacramento, California. Paratypes deposited in the following institutions and collections: American Museum of Natural History, New York; Bauer-Buckett

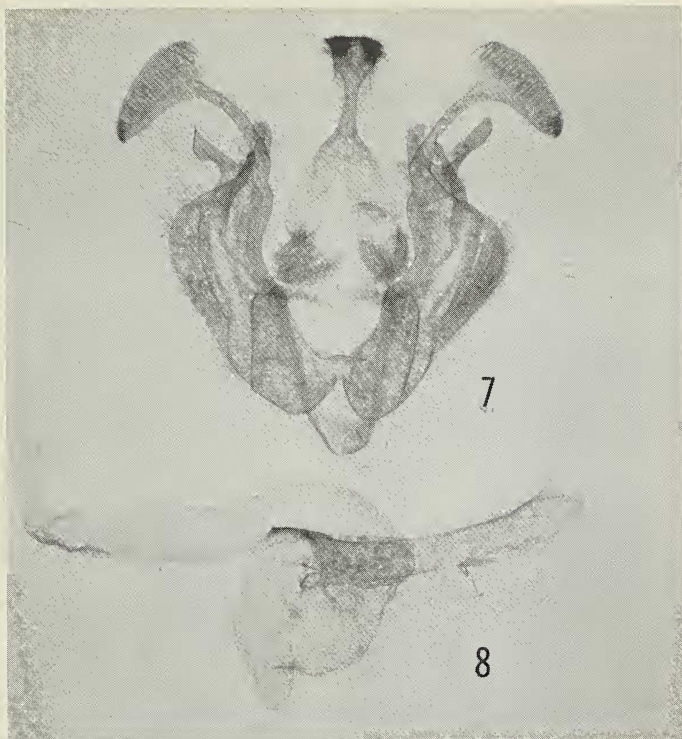


Fig. 7 *F. diffusa neptis*, male genitalia minus aedeagus. Data same as for Fig. 3, except Bauer-Buckett Slide No. 68B20-51.

Fig. 8 *F. diffusa neptis*, aedeagus. Same data as in Fig. 7.

Collection, Davis; California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco; California Department of Agriculture, Sacramento; John G. Franclemont Collection, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York; Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History, Los Angeles; United States National Museum, Washington, D. C.; University of California, Berkeley and Davis.

I would like to extend my appreciation to those that made material available for this work, and particularly to Mr. George M. Buxton, Bureau of Entomology, California Department of Agriculture, Sacramento, for the photography and to my colleague Mr. William R. Bauer of the same Bureau for preparation of genitalia slides.

F. terrapictalis is most closely related to *F. diffusa*, as is evidenced by both the maculation, and similarity of the genitalia (see figs. 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10). It can be superficially distinguish-

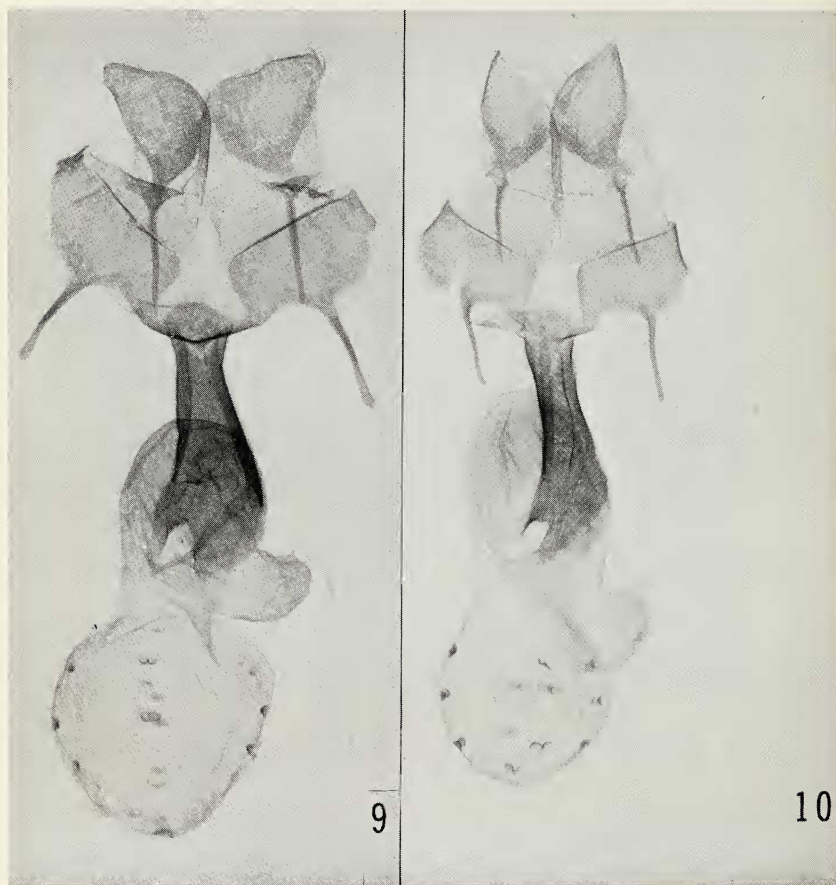


Fig. 9 *F. terrapictalis*, Allotype female genitalia. Data same as in Fig. 2.
Fig. 10 *F. diffusa neptis*, female genitalia. Same data as in Fig. 4.

ed from the latter by its dark brown coloration dorsally both on the primaries and the secondaries, whereas *diffusa* is "straw-colored."

LITERATURE CITED

- CRUMB, S. E., 1956. The larvae of the Phalaenidae. *U.S. Department of Agriculture Tech. Bull.* No. 1135, 356 pp., including 4 text figs. and 11 pls.